

Africa here we still [some of us] come!

Last newsletter I mentioned an upcoming family Summer '08 trip to Uganda. Sparing you the long (and good) story of how God modified those plans, now just my son Joshua (age 10) and I will be going for four weeks (June 10-July 7). We still plan to go as a whole family some time in the future, but for now everyone is much happier with this plan!

Joshua and I will travel with an eclectic group of 15 (about 2/3 current and former K-State Ichthus students), who will stay in Uganda for varied lengths of 3-6 weeks. We will experience Ugandan culture and do various ministries (in the slums, medical work, pastoral care, ministry to college students, work in villages, etc.) connected with the Anglican Church. Our good friend and former Ichthus staff member, Sarah Schultz, is our contact over there; we're delighted how God has put this together!

That's all I will say for now, because it'll be much more fun to report after we get back. Please contact me if you would like more information—especially if you would like to pray specifically for us during our actual time in Uganda, or if you would like to donate toward this trip for either Joshua and me, or for scholarships for these students. We're excited!

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A Message from Tyler Roark | Ichthus Intern

I was in charge of our recent spring break trip to serve with Habitat for Humanity in Little Rock, AR, so John asked me to coordinate this *Euangelion*. Nearly 50 people (including the Schwartz and Fontanini families) from Kansas State Ichthus joined 30+ others from other groups for a great opportunity to serve our Lord. We built houses, tore houses down to recycle building materials, painted murals, loved on children, worked in a huge food pantry, worshipped together, and much more!

God's hand in this trip was evident in many ways. Whether it was losing my voice and seeing many others step up in the group to lead, the cheerful and diligent work of students earning rave reviews from every Habitat employee, or God providing alternative plans for cancelled or rained-out sites, I saw God at work everywhere.

One of the most impacting parts of the trip for people was (again) the opportunity to meet and experience mutual ministry in a couple prisons around Little Rock in connection with the IFI program (a ministry of Prison Fellowship). Last year just the men got to go, but this year our female students (and Jeanette and Gretchen) did too. I hope you enjoy reading a couple of their reflections.

At the Ichthus meeting after we got back from Little Rock, we had a time of sharing where we heard stories like they share as well as many more. Clearly, God worked in many people's hearts during Little Rock and is still at work. We are even hoping to go back down this summer to the prison ministries, and are also exploring options to minister with the IFI program in Lansing, KS.

Finally, let me say thank you to everyone for your prayers and support during this trip. May reading this bless you and motivate you into mission yourself. We serve an awesome Creator!



Getting food ready to distribute at the Rice Depot food pantry

A Message from Sarah Burford | KSU Junior

Though the exterior of the prison might have seemed dismal, the room where we spent our entire morning shone with Jesus...After five minutes there, I entirely forgot I was in a prison...the inmates all looked so beautiful, and I knew that it was the Lord's beauty! ...A couple inmates shared their life stories with the group...The Lord humbled my heart and showed me that anyone could end up in prison. The prisoners were just normal people who needed love and care earlier in their lives.

The trip to the prison reminded me of God's love for those whom no one wants to care for. The prisoners showed me the excitement that new believers have in Christ. Their shining eyes and eager hearts reminded me that I have such a blessed gift to share with others. The knowledge of Christ's love might seem normal to me because I grew up with it. But to someone who has never heard the Truth before, it's the world. The women we met in prison had nothing but Jesus to cling to, and cling they did! I know that God has entrusted me with His truth and He wants me to share it with his other children, who desperately need to know Him and be loved by Him - even if they don't realize it yet.



A Message from Kristen Knoth | KSU Sophomore

The Little Rock trip was an amazingly rich experience for me. I went into the trip in a rough spot spiritually. I can honestly say that I was in a mindset that nothing "good" would stem from the trip - believing that the odds of it having any kind of lasting impression on my spiritual life back in Manhattan were low... but God used a variety of things to speak to me powerfully through the week - most notably our trip to the women's prison.

I can't adequately describe the experience. Thirteen students and three women from a local church joined a group of 18 inmates.

From the moment the inmates walked into the room, something changed. I had never seen the love of Christ so evident in people's lives as with these women. Prisoners. Felons. Former drug addicts. Even murderers. What made this experience so rich and beautiful was that these women had been delivered from those life-ruining titles. These women were forgiven. Kim, the inmate I was able to get to know, said at the beginning of the Bible study that they couldn't make it through a night without one or more women bawling. I laughed it off, but by the end of the night, there wasn't a dry eye in the room.

We truly experienced the reality of God's restorative power in these women's lives. When these women sing a song about grace, they HAVE TO mean it. After leaving the prison, I was so overwhelmed I couldn't even talk. Too many thoughts racing through my mind. Later that night and into the next day I was continually reminded of a passage in Hosea. God told Hosea to marry a prostitute. It was a picture of Israel's relationship with God Himself. They kept fleeing to other lovers to satisfy their wants. You can read about it in Hosea 2. It's just this beautiful and hopeful expression of God's patience and desire to be with us, in spite of our unfaithfulness to Him. Here's a bit of it:

Therefore I am now going to allure her; I will lead her into the desert and speak tenderly to her. There I will give her back her vineyards, and will make the Valley of Achor (trouble) a door of hope... "In that day," declares the Lord, "you will call me 'my husband'; you will no longer call me 'my master'... I will betroth you to me forever; I will betroth you in righteousness and justice, in love and compassion. I will betroth you in faithfulness, and you will acknowledge the Lord" (vv. 14-20).

I was reflecting on the prison experience for the rest of the week. It really is difficult to describe all of the thoughts and ideas that stemmed from my short time there. I was so blessed to be a part of it and experience it with a community of sisters whom I care about very much. Thank you all for your prayers and support. God is moving in Little Rock and in Manhattan and we are all a part of it.



Some of our women ready to demolish things for the Lord